

The Brethren Evangelist.

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EXTRA CALL.

Can we not have a general rally of subscriptions to EVANGELIST beginning with September 1st at 50cts each? Our agents can do a grand work for the cause if they will put the paper from now to the end of the year, into the homes of every family represented in the church.

We are confident that the majority of those who take the EVANGELIST the next four months will not be willing to do without it next year; and inasmuch as it is easier to get a subscriber for four months at fifty cents than twelve months at \$1.50, we make an earnest call upon all our agents and friends to push the circulation of the EVANGELIST with a zeal that does not take "no" for an answer.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The price of the BRETHREN EVANGELIST from Sept. 1st to January 1st is 50 cents.

Inasmuch as the editors do not open the mail for the office, anything intended for them alone and personally should be plainly marked "Personal." If this direction is followed no one will open the letter but the one it is intended for; ALL matter intended for the paper or business for the office should be addressed to the BRETHREN PUBLISHING HOUSE, ASHLAND, OHIO, and not to S. J. Harrison or S. H. Bashor as editors.

Bro. Brumbaugh of the Gospel Messenger, of Huntington, Pa., gave the EVANGELIST office a pleasant call yesterday.

On last Sunday Bro. Daniel Fike of Milledgeville had all his children home except Daniel. They are all grown to manhood and womanhood and call their mother, "blessed." All are members of the Brethren church save Daniel who resides in Milwaukee. The gathering of all the children

around the family board in love and union is a scene which always makes us think of Heaven.

We have been reliably informed that the German Baptist Brethren of Lanark, Ill., have tendered a "call" to J. C. Murray of Indiana to take pastoral charge of their congregation at a salary of \$400.00 per annum. The congregation is able to pay double or treble this sum; but having three ministers already of her own who serve "without money and without price" they may not see the wisdom of paying for what they are just as welcome to free of charge. We attended the services of this congregation on the evening of the fourth instant, and are glad to say that aside from pulpit courtesies we could not realize but that we were still one of them. When the spirit of Christ prevails God's blessings will attend.

On last Sunday we had the pleasure of a drive across the beautiful prairie between Lanark and Milledgeville, Ill. Although it is and has been rather dry, crops are unusually heavy. We arrived at Milledgeville just at the opening of the morning service and quite surprised the pastor and audience. It is always a pleasure to talk to those who have long been our friends and with whom love is reciprocal. The house was comfortably filled, which shows that Brother Tally's congregation does not dry up like some streams in "dog days." They are making all necessary arrangements to receive and entertain the guests of the Illiokota conference which will assemble with them on the three days preceding the National Conference. Milledgeville will send her full quota of delegates to the National Conference.

We have been thinking over Bro. Moore's "Make your mark" considerable the past week, and the more we consider it the more confounded we become at the statements it contains. We have tried to think of some that have made their "mark" because they are German Baptist Brethren, and we are unable to recall a single name. This is not because its members have lacked talent, but it is because the church has affirmed and does affirm propositions that are so palpably absurd that it has never been able to make any progress outside of those who have been taught its polity from infancy. In fact the G. B. Brethren church has been such a hindrance to men in making their "mark," that we can think of only three who have been able to do it. Now if Bro. Moore will name others who have "made their mark," we shall be glad to know them, and introduce them to our readers.

While nearly every body is complaining at Congress for doing nothing we see much to rejoice over. To quiet the nerves of

those who are very partisan in their politics on the question of which side the EVANGELIST is on, we can truthfully say it is on no side. Its editor though thirty-eight years of age has never but once voted for a national officer, and that was several years ago. We have seen as clearly as it is possible for evidence to make anything that the great majority of officials have struggled far more to do what would enable them to continue in office than what it would be the country's best interest for them to do. But the thought to which we wish in this item to call attention is that the inability of Congress to enact any laws at this session shows the stability of our government at a time when that question is of infinitely greater importance than our commercial prosperity; for, with life and property insecure, even civilization is hung in the balances. But the struggle over the tariff shows us how hard it is to spread law upon our books and once recorded how hard it is to repeal or modify it. By this of course we do not wish any one to think we do not want the tariff question settled, but in the contention a matter of greater importance, the stability of law, is brought out in an impressive way.

A Universalist pastor in Michigan who has withdrawn from that denomination gives these reasons for this step: "First, I don't believe that the Bible teaches the salvation of all men; I have only held to it as a passing hope, not a dogma to be preached; second, philosophical salvation as taught by Universalists makes the sacrifice of Calvary unnecessary, if not a mistake; third, the Bible is not studied as an authority in the Universalist church; fourth, I have lost faith in the mission of the Universalist church organization, its main business being to point out errors of orthodoxy." In other words he finds that the house which he has so far called home, has no roof, floor, foundation or sides. It is a great emptiness with nothing around it. That has always been our idea of Universalism.—New York Observer.

Popular Christianity says, "There is no saving virtue in baptism; if the heart is only right there is no necessity for those outward ordinances." How can the water reach the heart and wash away sin? Just as Naaman was cleansed of leprosy, by obeying the positive command of God. We have no right to reason or question any more than Joshua, Abraham, and others had, when God through Christ, directs us what to do. We must believe that he is able to do what he has promised. When we comply with the conditions upon which the promise is given, let it be ever so unreasonable or mysterious, the Holy Scriptures do teach that baptism, when properly administered to a true penitent, is a saving ordinance, and will wash away sin. The Apostle Peter, in speaking of the destruction of